

Sentencing Policy

Friday, December 10, 2011

Dear League President,

Please read this email and forward it to your members before your League does Program Planning.

We want to notify you that the LWVDC (Washington, D.C.) will sponsor the following proposal for concurrence at Convention 2012 in June:

"Sentencing Policy

- (1) The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.
- (2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses."

A study published this month has revealed that up to 41% of young people in the United States have been arrested by age 23 for something other than minor traffic violations. The United States is the largest jailer of citizens per capita in the world, with enormous economic and social costs. Much imprisonment is due to harsh mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. After imprisonment, having a criminal record carries a lifetime of daunting obstacles to succeed as a productive citizen.

- 1) Please use this link (www.lwvdc.org) to find educational information about the proposed concurrence on the LWVDC website.
- 2) Then please print that information to read and consider during your League's Program Planning.
- 3) At Program Planning, we hope your League will recommend this concurrence on the LWVUS response form as follows:

Title: Sentencing Policy

Summary of concurrence: Alternatives to imprisonment and no mandatory minimum drug sentences.

Name of League position: LWVDC Criminal Sentencing

Location of League position: LWVDC.org

Thank you very much! Please let me know if you have any questions about this request.

Sharon Fratepietro

LWVCA (Charleston, SC)

(For the LWVDC and the Ad Hoc Committee on Sentencing Reform)

843-670-3077

sharoninsc@gmail.com

